

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
29 January 2004 (29.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/010742 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H05B 41/282**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2003/003013

(22) International Filing Date: 1 July 2003 (01.07.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
02077984.9 22 July 2002 (22.07.2002) EP

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,

CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

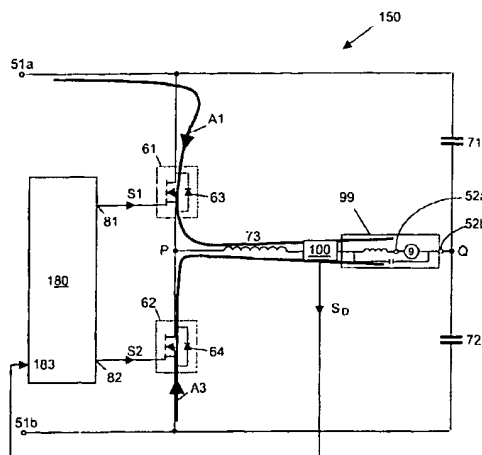
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM,

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(54) Title: DRIVER FOR A GAS DISCHARGE LAMP



(57) Abstract: Driver (150) for a gas discharge lamp (9) comprises: an arrangement of two MOSFET switches (61, 62) connected in series between two input terminals (51a, 51b); an inductor (73) connected in series with said lamp (9), this series arrangement being coupled to a node (P) between said two switches; a control unit (180) providing control signals (S1, S2) to said two switches. During a first commutation interval (41), a lamp circuit current (ILC) has only a first direction while during a second commutation interval (42) said lamp circuit current has only an opposite direction. In each commutation interval (41, 42), during a first operational phase (43) said lamp circuit current has a continuously increasing level while during a second operational phase (44) said lamp circuit current has a continuously decreasing level. The control unit (180) is designed to generate its control signals (S1, S2) such that said two switches are always, switched substantially simultaneously in counter-phase. The mosfets are used in reverse conduction mode also, to avoid body diode conduction (synchronous rectification).

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